# ABSTRACT

A method and system for determining whether to enforce a plurality of filter rules for a packet including a key in a computer network is disclosed. Each of the plurality of filter rules has a priority. The method and system include accumulating statistics for each of the plurality of filter rules. The statistics indicate a frequency of enforcement for each of the plurality of filter rules. The method and system also include placing the plurality of filter rules in an order for testing against the key. The order is based on the frequency of each filter rule of the portion of the plurality of filter rules. Consequently, more frequently enforced filter rules may be tested first.